It flushes out missiles and spies on enemies.
It maps the ocean's floor, catches robbers and
upgrades sports. It studies fires and drunks and
pigs and psychiatric patients, streamlines industry
and stores massive knowledge in a tiny space

The Indispensable Camera

by RICHARD B. STOLLEY

Photography today is evolving into a superservant in man's struggle to master his environment. It has caught criminals, upgraded competitive performance on the playing field and on the battlefield, revolutionized library and research procedures, and rewritten the course of modern history and diplomacy. It has mapped the ocean floor and shown man where to land on the moon. And beyond all this is an almost infinite variety of newer uses.

Infrared aerials take the temperature inside volcanoes to help forecast eruptions. The Atomic Energy Commission has used cameras that operate at speeds up to 200 million frames per second to record the effects of nuclear explosions. The enlarged picture of a baby's palm print, disclosing the tiny abnormalities which are clues to birth defects, alerts doctors to the need for early treatment.

Psychiatry, beginning to experi-ment with photography, has found that when catatonic patients are shown pictures of themselves, a dramatic transformation takes place; normally oblivious of their appearance, they suddenly begin to wash, comb their hair and take pride in their grooming. Anthropology professors accept films in lieu of term papers. One student at Queens College in New York submitted an 8-mm movie on his brother's bar mitzvah to document the Jewish puberty rite in the U.S. Not only did the student get a good grade, but he caught a crook. His film clearly showed a waiter rifling women's purses at the tables and lifting men's wallets on the crowded dance floor.

Airlines wrap their jets in film—more than a mile of it per plane—and X-ray them to spot tiny cracks which could fracture a fuselage.

To make miniaturized electrical circuits, technicians take a picture